

REMARKS

Claims 21-28 and 34-43 are pending in the present application. In the above amendment, claims 1-20, 29-31, and 33 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In the Office Action mailed March 11, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20, 29-31, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gutierrez (US 6,285,669) in view of Takahashi et al. (US 5,912,886). The Examiner further rejected claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gutierrez (US 6,285,669). While not necessarily acquiescing to the art rejections set forth by the Examiner, and in the interest of advancing the prosecution of this application, the Applicant has cancelled claims 1-20, 29-31, and 33 of the present invention without prejudice or disclaimer thereby making the aforementioned art rejections moot.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant submits that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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